



**WORLD**  
DIGITAL LIBRARY

[www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)

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**[www.twitter.com/WDLorg](http://www.twitter.com/WDLorg)**

**This is what the Internet  
should be about**

**Thank you! This is wonderful,  
beautiful and extraordinary.  
You have given me  
and my children  
a marvelous gift.**

**I keep discovering  
more and more treasures  
of the world  
every time I come back  
to your site.**

I felt as if I were in the world's  
most interesting library  
as I wandered  
from continent to continent,  
exploring treasures.

**What is it?**

# What is it?

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- An international partnership led by the U.S. Library of Congress
- Project to digitize and make accessible online, for free, the most important cultural and historical documents from all countries.
- <http://www.wdl.org> launched in 2009





# About the WDL website

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The site ([www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)) includes rare books, journals, manuscripts, maps, prints, photographs, films, sound, newspapers from partners around the world.

- Multilingualism
- High-quality metadata
- Curatorial interpretation
- Multiple methods of discovery
- Enhanced display, zoom
- Ability to share content
- Text-to-speech

**What else?**

# Capacity building

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The WDL is an effort to share knowledge and build capacity by:

- Establishing **digital conversion centers** (Egypt, Iraq, Uganda)
- **Encouraging digitization** where little or no digital content is being produced
- **Facilitating cooperation** between experienced institutions and those just getting started

# Capacity building



**Partners**

# Partners

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- National libraries
- University libraries
- Public libraries
- Archives
- Museums

160 Partners

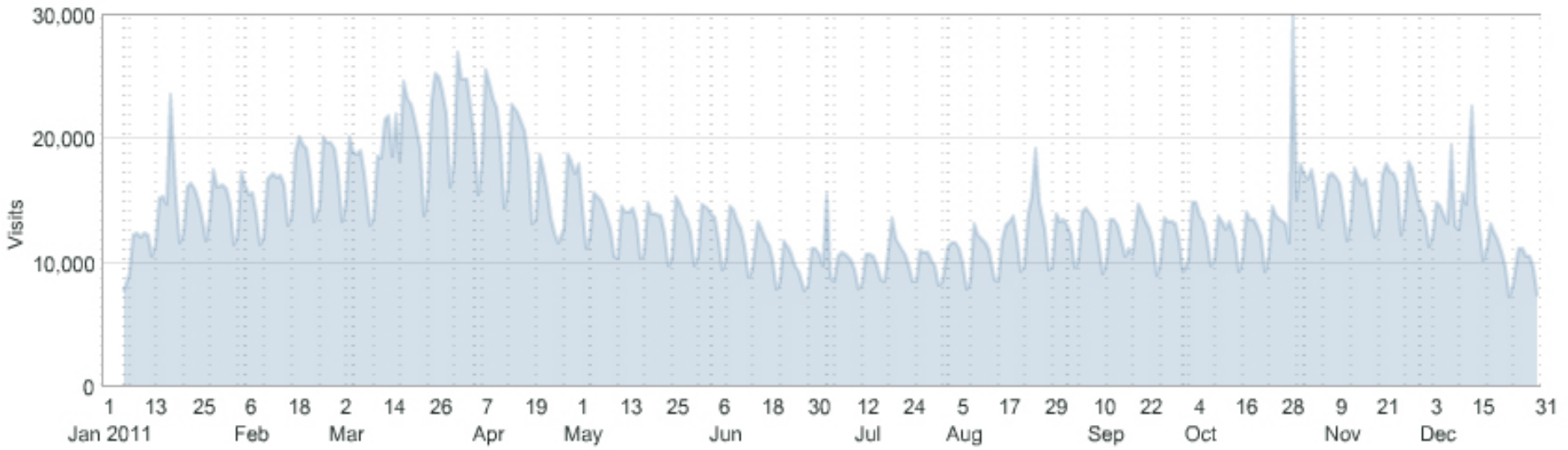
75 Countries



# About WDL users



# How many users?



420,000 visits per month in 2011

# Where are they?



# Top 20 countries in 2011

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Spain: 21.4%  
Mexico: 11.5%  
Brazil: 9.9%  
United States: 9.1%  
Argentina: 7.0%  
China: 3.9%  
Colombia: 3.6%  
Portugal: 2.9%  
United Kingdom: 2.8%  
Germany: 2.6%

Russian Federation: 2.1%  
France: 1.9%  
Peru: 1.9%  
Iran: 1.6%  
Venezuela: 1.5%  
Chile: 1.3%  
Canada: 0.9%  
Uruguay: 0.8%  
Sweden: 0.8%  
Ukraine: 0.7%

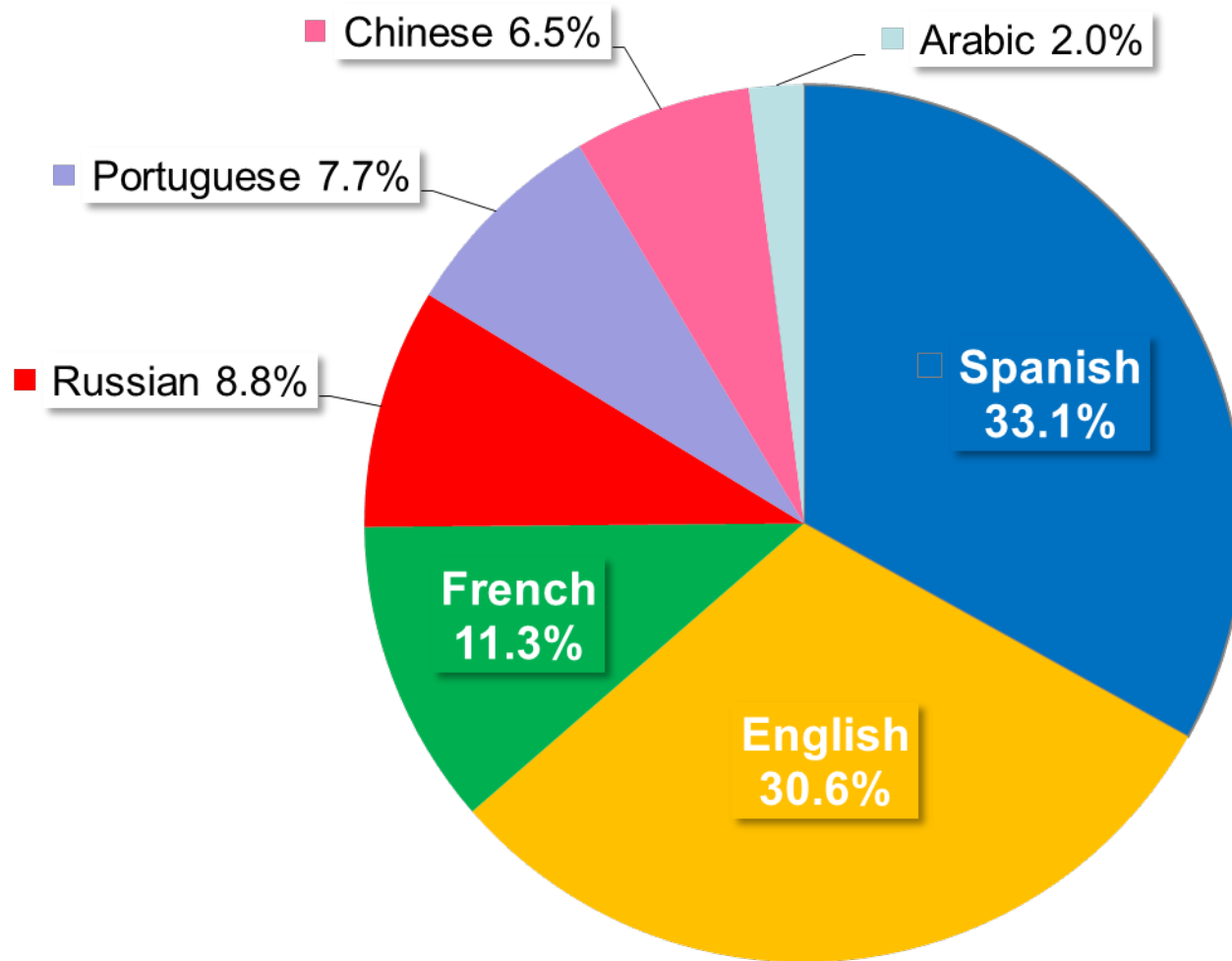
# Multilingualism

# Site is available in 7 languages

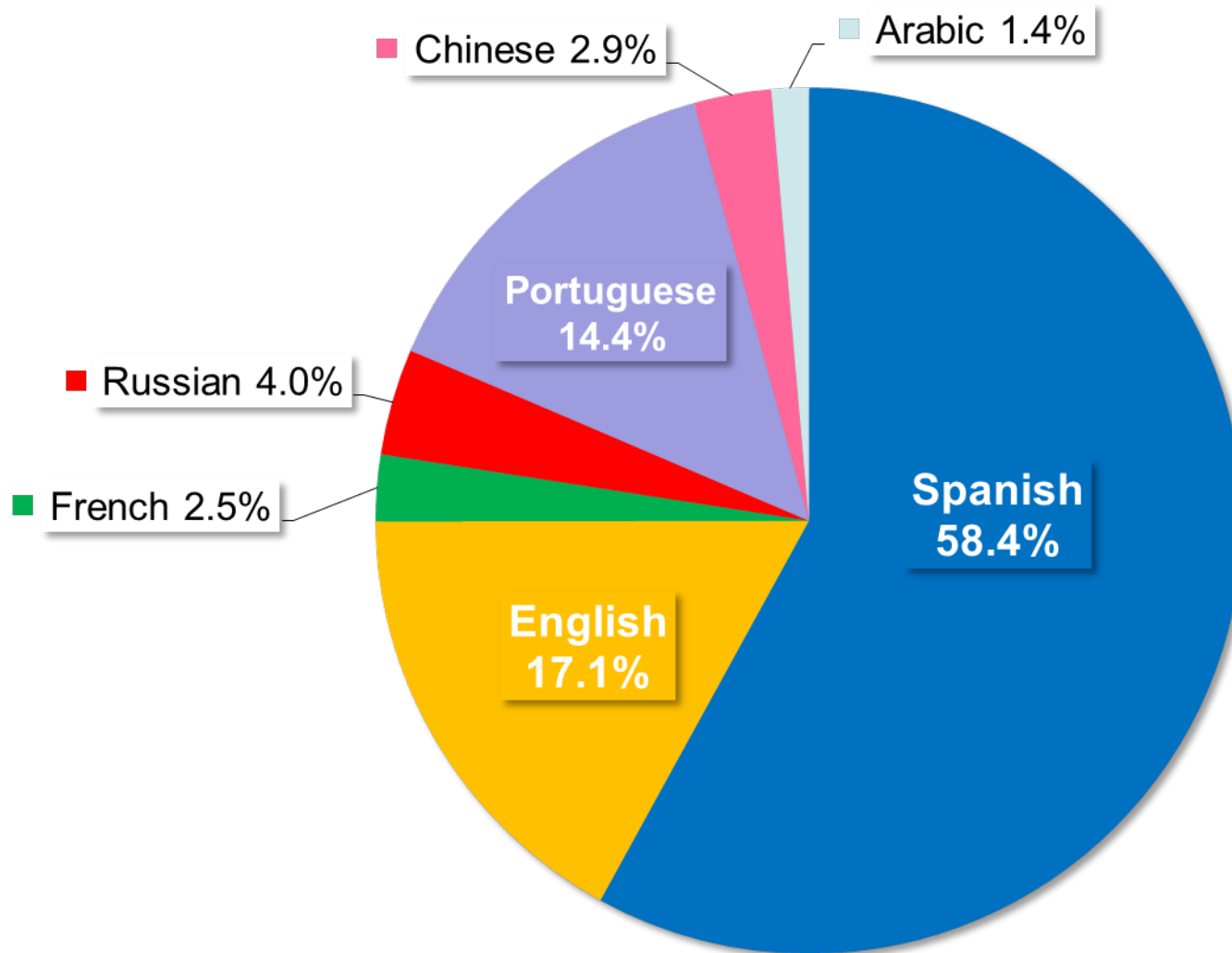
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- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

# Language of pages viewed in 2009



# Language of pages viewed in 2011



# Goals and next steps





# Goals and next steps

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- **Add content.** Improve content preparation and transfer tools.
- Recruit **at least one partner from every country.** Enable more participation through capacity building.
- Expand and **engage wider audience.** Increase outreach and awareness efforts. Improve mobile user experience. Create more opportunities for user participation.

# Comments from Twitter (WDLorg)

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- I **love** what you're doing. Keep up the good work! (United States)
- One of the **best** information and image galleries I have found in ages. (Djibouti)
- Thank you for this **great** site. Thank you for the treasure of knowledge. (Syria)
- For more **awesome** in your Monday, check out the World Digital Library. (Scotland)
- Absolutely **beautiful**. Thanks for sharing and for keeping things like this [*Poema del Cid*] so we can treasure them! (United States)
- **Cool** resource. Hope it continues to grow. (China)
- Totally accessible and for **free**! (Canada)
- Just found @WDLorg on Twitter. They have some **incredible** collections. Great website for students and faculty. (United States)
- A great **discovery**! (Spain)

# Site demonstration



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